

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4429

To require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers and other such businesses to successfully integrate and utilize electronic commerce technologies and business practices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. BARCIA (for himself, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. CALVERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers and other such businesses to successfully integrate and utilize electronic commerce technologies and business practices.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Electronic Commerce
5 Enhancement Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Commercial transactions on the Internet,
2 whether retail business-to-customer or business-to-
3 business, are commonly called electronic commerce.

4 (2) One of the fastest growing sectors of elec-
5 tronic commerce is business-to-business transactions.
6 By 2003 it is expected that business-to-business
7 transactions will amount to more than 10 times the
8 amount of \$131,000,000,000 estimated to have been
9 reached in 1999.

10 (3) In the United States, business-to-business
11 transactions between small and medium-sized manu-
12 facturers and other such businesses and their sup-
13 pliers is rapidly growing, as many of these busi-
14 nesses begin to use Internet connections for supply-
15 chain management, after-sales support, and pay-
16 ments.

17 (4) Small and medium-sized manufacturers and
18 other such businesses play a critical role in the
19 United States economy. The Federal Government
20 should assist, as appropriate, small and medium-
21 sized manufacturers and other such businesses in
22 implementing electronic commerce technologies and
23 business practices so they can be competitive in
24 international markets.

1 (5) Electronic commerce can help small and
2 medium-sized manufacturers and other such busi-
3 nesses develop new products and markets, interact
4 more quickly and efficiently with suppliers and cus-
5 tomers, and improve productivity by increasing effi-
6 ciency and reducing transaction costs and paper-
7 work. Small and medium-sized manufacturers and
8 other such businesses who fully exploit the potential
9 of electronic commerce activities can use it to inter-
10 act with customers, suppliers, and the public, and
11 for external support functions such as personnel
12 services and employee training.

13 (6) The National Institute of Standards and
14 Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership
15 program has a successful record of assisting small
16 and medium-sized manufacturers and other such
17 businesses. In addition, the Manufacturing Exten-
18 sion Partnership program, working with the Small
19 Business Administration, successfully assisted
20 United States small enterprises in remediating their
21 Y2K computer problems.

22 (7) A critical element of electronic commerce is
23 the ability of different electronic commerce systems
24 to exchange information. The continued growth of
25 electronic commerce will be enhanced by the develop-

1 ment of private voluntary interoperability standards
2 and testbeds to ensure the compatibility of different
3 systems.

4 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON THE UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC**
5 **COMMERCE.**

6 (a) **ADVISORY PANEL.**—The Director of the National
7 Institute of Standards and Technology (in this Act re-
8 ferred to as the “Director”) shall establish an Advisory
9 Panel to report on the challenges facing small and me-
10 dium-sized manufacturers and other such businesses in in-
11 tegrating and utilizing electronic commerce technologies
12 and business practices. The Advisory Panel shall be com-
13 prised of representatives of the Technology Administra-
14 tion, the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s
15 Manufacturing Extension Partnership program estab-
16 lished under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute
17 of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and
18 278l), the Small Business Administration, the Moderniza-
19 tion Forum, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the
20 National Association of Manufacturers, and other relevant
21 parties as identified by the Director.

22 (b) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Within 12 months after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Advisory Panel shall
24 report to the Director and to the Committee on Science
25 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on
2 the immediate requirements of small and medium-sized
3 manufacturers and other such businesses to integrate and
4 utilize electronic commerce technologies and business
5 practices. The report shall—

6 (1) describe the current utilization of electronic
7 commerce practices by small and medium-sized man-
8 ufacturers and other such businesses, detailing the
9 different levels between business-to-retail customer
10 and business-to-business transactions;

11 (2) describe and assess the utilization and need
12 for encryption and electronic authentication compo-
13 nents and electronically stored data security in elec-
14 tronic commerce for small and medium-sized manu-
15 facturers and other such businesses;

16 (3) identify the impact and problems of inter-
17 operability to electronic commerce, and include an
18 economic assessment; and

19 (4) include a preliminary assessment of the ap-
20 propriate role of, and recommendations for, the
21 Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to
22 assist small and medium-sized manufacturers and
23 other such businesses to integrate and utilize elec-
24 tronic commerce technologies and business practices.

1 (c) FINAL REPORT.—Within 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Advisory Panel shall
3 report to the Director and to the Committee on Science
4 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
5 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
6 3-year assessment of the needs of small and medium-sized
7 manufacturers and other such businesses to integrate and
8 utilize electronic commerce technologies and business
9 practices. The report shall include—

10 (1) a 3-year planning document for the Manu-
11 facturing Extension Partnership program in the
12 field of electronic commerce; and

13 (2) recommendations, if necessary, for the Na-
14 tional Institute of Standards and Technology to ad-
15 dress interoperability issues in the field of electronic
16 commerce.

17 **SEC. 4. ELECTRONIC COMMERCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

18 The National Institute of Standards and Tech-
19 nology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership program,
20 in consultation with the Small Business Administration,
21 shall establish a pilot program to assist small and me-
22 dium-sized manufacturers and other such businesses in in-
23 tegrating and utilizing electronic commerce technologies
24 and business practices. Such program shall be imple-
25 mented through a competitive grants program for existing

1 Regional Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing Tech-
2 nology established under section 25 of the National Insti-
3 tute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k).
4 In carrying out this section, the Manufacturing Extension
5 Partnership program shall consult with the Advisory
6 Panel and utilize the Advisory Panel's reports.

○